

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Changes to the claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strike through~~. Claims 1-20 and 27 were previously cancelled without prejudice of the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a data-signal at a bidirectional communications switch from a signaling device including at least one of a signaling image transmitting device or a multiview device, the at least one of the signaling image transmitting device or the signaling device being in communication with a data server and with at least one of a first workstation or a second workstation, the data server being in direct communication with at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation, the bidirectional communications switch being managed by the data server via a multi-media interface device, the data server configured based on an open-system commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)-compatible architecture, the first workstation having a software application configured to manage and distribute the data-signal, the data-signal being at least one of an analog signal or a digital signal,

the data-signal being at least one of a video signal or an audio signal encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standard, the receiving includes receiving over a first network separate from a second network used by the bidirectional communications switch, the signaling device, and the data server;

receiving a request for the data-signal at the data server bi-directional communication switch from at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation via the bi-directional communications switch, the first workstation and the second workstation being interactively and interoperably coupled via the bidirectional communications switch and the data server associated with a user;

producing at the data server a first instruction configured to trigger the bi-directional communications switch to send ~~sending~~ the data-signal to the first workstation in response to the request, the first instruction being produced based on at least one of an indicator of a priority of the user and an indicator of a location of the signaling device, the priority and the location being determined at the data server based on information stored in a database associated with the data server; and

establishing a video conference between the first workstation and ~~the~~ a second workstation via the bidirectional communications switch in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real-time via a microphone and a video component; and

receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch when at least one of the first instruction or the second instruction is produced by the data server, the codec subsystem configured to at least one of encode or decode a protocol associated with a plurality of protocols installed at the codec subsystem.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the signaling device is a detection sensor ~~a highway traffic surveillance device.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

authorizing the user to control the signaling device via the workstation and via the data server based on the at least one the indicator of the priority of the user and indicator of the location of the signaling device, ~~the priority of the user and the location of the signaling device being stored in data server.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

sending simultaneously the data-signal to the a second workstation associated with a second user based at least one of a priority of the second user and the location of the signaling device, ~~the priority of the second user and the location of the signaling device being stored in a data server.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising decoding the data-signal.

26. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a data-signal at a bidirectional communications switch from a signaling device over an existing infrastructure separate from a data network used by the bidirectional communications switch, the signaling device, and a data server, the signaling device being a highway traffic surveillance device including at least one of a signaling image transmitting device or a multiview device, the at least one of the signaling image transmitting device or the multiview device being in communication with the data server and with at least one of a first workstation or a second workstation via the bidirectional communications switch, the data-signal being at least one of a video signal or an audio signal encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standard, the bidirectional communications switch being managed by the data server via a multi-media interface device, the data server configured based on an open-system COTS-compatible architecture;

receiving a request for the data-signal at the data server via the bidirectional communications switch from the a first workstation associated with a first user;

producing at the data server an instruction configured to trigger the bi-directional communications switch to send ~~sending~~ the data-signal to the first workstation in response to the request, the instruction being produced based on at least one of an indicator of a priority of the first user or an indicator of a location of the signaling device, the priority and the location being determined at the data server based on information stored in a database associated with the data server;

receiving a request for the data-signal at the data server via the bidirectional communications switch from the a second workstation associated with a second user;

sending simultaneously the data-signal to the second workstation in response to the request for the data-signal from the second workstation based at least one of an indicator of a priority of the second user and the indicator of the location of the signaling device;

receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch, the data-signal being processed based on the signal from the codec

subsystem, the codec subsystem configured to at least one of encode or decode a protocol associated with a plurality of protocols installed at the codec subsystem; and

establishing a video conference between the first workstation and the second workstation via the bidirectional communications switch, the first workstation and the second workstation being interactively and interoperably coupled via the bidirectional communications switch and the data server.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein a signal associated with the video conference is sent simultaneously with the data-signal using a full-duplex operating mode.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

authorizing at least one of the first user or the second user to control the signaling device based on the indicator of the priority of the first user, the indicator of the priority of the second user and the indicator of the location of the signal device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the first workstation is included in a primary video management center.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a bidirectional communications switch; and
a data server in communication with the bidirectional communications switch and configured to manage the bidirectional communications switch via a multi-media interface device, the data server configured based on an open-system COTS-compatible architecture, the bidirectional communications switch configured to send a control signal to a signaling device in communication with the data server and with at least one of a first workstation or a second workstation, the control signal being processed by the data server in response to a signal received at the data server via the bidirectional communications switch from at least one of a first

workstation or a second workstation, the data server being in direct communication with at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation,

the bidirectional communications switch being further configured to receive a data-signal over an existing infrastructure separate from a data network used by the bidirectional communications switch, the signaling device, and the data server, the data-signal being captured by the signaling device in response to the control signal, the signaling device is at least one of a multiview device or an image transmitting device, the data-signal includes at least one of a video signal or an audio signal encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standard,

the bidirectional communications switch being further configured to send the data-signal to at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation in response to a first instruction produced by the data server, the data server configured to trigger the bidirectional communications switch to send sends at least one of the control signal or the data-signal based on a priority associated with the at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation via a secure connection, the priority being determined at the data server based on information stored in a database associated with the data server, the first workstation and the second workstation being interactively and interoperably coupled via the bidirectional communications switch and the data server,

the bidirectional communications switch being further configured to establish a video conference between the first workstation and the second workstation when the at least one of the control signal or the data-signal is sent by the bidirectional communications switch based on the priority and in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real-time via a microphone and a video component,

the data server configured to communicate with a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch, the codec subsystem configured to at least one of encode or decode a protocol associated with a plurality of protocols installed at the codec subsystem, the codec subsystem configured to support a service associated with the data server when at least one of the first instruction or the second instruction is produced by the data server.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the bidirectional communications switch is configured to send at least one of the control signal or the data-signal based on a location associated with the signaling device, the location being determined at the data server.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the data-signal is at least one of a decoded data-signal or an encoded data-signal.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein:
the bidirectional communications switch is configured to send at least one of the control signal or the data-signal based on a location associated with the signaling device,
the bidirectional communications switch is configured to receive an indicator of the priority and an indicator of the location from the a data server.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein:
the bidirectional communications switch is configured to send at least one of the control signal or the data-signal based on a location associated with the signaling device,
the bidirectional communications switch is configured to receive an indicator of the priority and an indicator of the location from the a data server, the data server is configured as at least one of an application server associated with the bidirectional communications switch or a database.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the bidirectional communications switch is a first bidirectional communications switch configured to at least one of send or receive an a third instruction associated with a second bidirectional communications switch, the data server is configured to trunk the first communications switch associated with the second bidirectional communications switch.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein:

the signaling device is a first signaling device,

the bidirectional communications switch is configured to send at least one of the control signal or the data-signal based on a location associated with at least one of the first signaling device or a second signaling device,

the bidirectional communications switch is configured to send the control signal to at least one of the first signaling device or the second signaling device based on a third instruction from the data server, the data-signal is captured by at least one of the first signaling device or the second signaling device.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the video conference is a real-time video conference.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the signaling device is a surveillance device.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the image transmitting device is a remote highway traffic surveillance camera.